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Duffy to visit the Children's Museum

HOLYOKE, – State Representative Patricia Duffy (5th Hampden District) will make her first official visit to the Children's Museum at Holyoke on Saturday, Feb. 20, 2021 at 11 a.m. Children's Museum Executive Director Susan Kelley says: "We are pleased to welcome Representative Duffy to our museum as we highlight our many outstanding exhibits and cleaning protocols to ensure a fun space for children and families to learn and play."

Representative Duffy stated that: "Supporting the Children's Museum is always a priority as it's a great attraction that brings everyone to our great City Center. And of



Newly-elected State Rep. Patricia Duffy will make her first public appearance this weekend at the Holyoke Children's Museum.

course, it's even more important now as the Museum serves as such an important outlet to families in this crisis."

Representative Duffy will tour the many exhibits at the museum including some vis-

itor favorites; the Animation Station, World of Motion, the Grocery Store and the PEZ exhibit.

The event will be attended

See MUSEUM, page 11

Lebron-Martinez will not seek re-election

By Shelby Macri
smacri@turley.com

HOLYOKE – Ward 1 City Councilor Gladys Lebrón-Martínez announced this week she is not running for re-election.

The Ward 1 councilor was first elected to the Holyoke School Committee in 2003, and was elected to the Council in 2011 after serving four terms with the School Committee. Lebrón-Martínez has served as a member on the Holyoke Redevelopment Authority from the same year she became a councilor, after serving Ward one for five terms she is leaving the council and HRA this year.

In an announcement of her upcoming departure, she spoke



Gladys
Lebron-Martinez

about the work she has done as a councilor.

"I will walk away at the end of my term with a tremendous and valuable experience, and I am proud of the work we have accomplished together," Lebrón-Martínez said. "Over the last

decade, we have seen record levels of investment in Ward one, encompassing the Downtown, the Innovation District, and the Flats. I leave my position knowing that our neighborhoods are stronger today than they were when I arrived at city hall."

She went on to talk about projects within the ward like

See RE-ELECTION, page 11

Health director warns of COVID-19 vaccine phone scams

By Shelby Macri
smacri@turley.com

HOLYOKE – The Holyoke Board of Health posted on the website's COVID-19 response page, under the community resources to warn people of fraudulent vaccination registration calls.

Health Director Sean Gonsalves said that he wanted to put out a statement to let

residents know that these calls are fake and that the BOH and Council-On-Aging will not ask for your Social Security number, credit or bank card information, or that you transfer money.

"There haven't been any specific cases of these scam calls in town, to say that I haven't had people complain to me specifically," Gonsalves said. "I don't have any first-

hand accounts, but these scam calls have been spoken about in health circles of other towns when we meet. Other towns, like East Longmeadow have had these calls and I wanted to address the issue before it became a problem in town." Gonsalves said that he sent out a notice for the people as its the best practice for the town.

The Hampden Health District consists of health

boards throughout the district the meet regularly to oversee the progress of the virus and everything to do with it. When these scam calls were brought up other towns had an issue and those affected towns put out stamens to inform their residents of the fraudulent calls. Gonsalves took a page from their book and notified Holyoke residents ahead of the problem.

Additionally, it seems that

these scam calls started to gain pace with the vaccination sites, as people can register by phone now. Appointments for vaccines can be made by calling 211 or going online to mass.gov/vaccine for eligible individuals in the current phase. If residents receive a call about registering for a vaccine and it asks for money or payment, it is fake

See SCAMS, page 11

Velis named chair of Veterans and Federal Affairs Committee

BOSTON – On Friday the Massachusetts State Senate announced new committee assignments for the 2021-2022 legislative session. Senator John Velis (D-Westfield) was named the Senate chair of the Joint Committee on Veterans and Federal Affairs. When asked

about his new position, Senator Velis stressed the importance of delivering for those who have served our country.

"Those in our Armed Forces are selfless and courageous individuals who lay their lives on the

See VELIS, page 11

Dean applications due in early March

HOLYOKE – Students in 8th-grade and above can apply to join the HHS Dean campus community. Applications are due Mar. 13. Once applications are received, interviews will be scheduled between now and Mar. 26. These will be facilitated between the Dean Campus and your child's sending school. Spots are limited. If you have any questions, read the Admissions Policy and contact Laurie Denis Idenis@

hps.holyoke.ma.us or Alan Gates agates@hps.holyoke.ma.us at 413-534-2071/72. Please register for Dean's virtual Questions and Answers Session on Wednesday, Mar. 3 at 5 p.m. After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the session. (All applications received after Mar. 13 will be reviewed and a campus representative will be in touch with more information).

All Saints' Lenten grab-and-go scheduled

By Dalton Zbierski
Staff Writer

SOUTH HADLEY – Last year, the All Saints' Episcopal Church on Woodbridge Street in South Hadley celebrated the 50th edition of its Lenten Lunches program, a weekly initiative held each Lent that has raised more than \$100,000 for a variety of charitable causes.

This year, organizers were forced to pivot in line with the spirit of sacrifice that defines the Lenten season.

The COVID-19 pandemic may disrupt a tradition more than five decades in the making, but event organizers are not giving up. Instead of hosting lunches indoors each Friday during Lent, the church will host an outdoor Lenten Lunch Grab-and-Go on Friday, Feb. 19.

See LENTEN, page 12



A group of volunteers takes a break from working diligently to pose for a picture at All Saints' Episcopal Church in South Hadley during an edition of Lenten Lunches on March 6, 2020

Archive photo

Virtual event designed to inspire women to pursue STEM

SPRINGFIELD – The Pioneer Valley Womxn in STEM (PVWIS) network and the Society of Women Engineers (SWE) are co-sponsoring Unleash Your Inner STEM!, a free virtual event on Feb. 25 from 5:30 p.m. to 8 p.m.

While open to all women in STEM (student or professional), this event targets community college women in science, technology, engineering and mathematics majors.

“We are excited to present this opportunity for our students at Springfield Technical Community College and students across the commonwealth,” said Beth McGinnis-Cavanaugh, a STCC engineering and physics professor who established the STCC chapter of the Society of Women Engineers. “‘Unleash Your Inner STEM’ is about helping students understand STEM identity, overcome challenges to developing STEM identity, and illustrating ways in which they can leverage their identities throughout their careers.”

Working with McGinnis-Cavanaugh to plan the event are Isabel Huff, a grant project outreach coordinator at STCC; Melissa Paciulli, director of the STEM Starter Academy at Holyoke Community College, and Michelle Rame, an HCC engineering alumna who graduated in 2018 and is now working as a bridge engineer for the Connecticut Department of Transportation.

McGinnis-Cavanaugh, Paciulli, and Rame co-founded the Pioneer Valley Womxn in STEM network in 2019, along with Alysha Putnam, former STEM coordinator at Greenfield Community College.

“When women gather together to share their experiences and journeys in STEM, they walk away empowered,” said Paciulli. “HCC is thrilled to partner with STCC on this exciting and import-



STCC Professor Beth McGinnis-Cavanaugh, left, joins STCC graduate and UMass student Maeliz Colon during a Pioneer Valley Womxn in STEM event in October 2018. Colon will speak at an upcoming virtual event on Feb. 25.

Submitted photo

ant event, which features an incredible lineup of amazing presenters.”

Barbara Washburn, dean of the STCC School of STEM, will attend and encourages all STEM students to register.

“The event will be an opportunity for our students to hear from women who are passionate about their work in STEM,” Washburn said. “These networking experiences are so valuable for our students. We’re excited to work with HCC to offer this powerful event.”

STCC students who attend will be eligible to receive a free membership in SWE paid for by a federal HSI-STEM grant. STCC is a designated Hispanic Serving Institution (HSI).

HCC is currently creating its

own chapter of the Society of Women Engineers. In support of this initiative, HCC’s STEM Starter Academy is covering the cost of SWE membership for the first 10 HCC students who register for the Unleash Your Inner STEM event.

Maeliz Colon, a STCC graduate seeking a degree in mechanical engineering from the University of Massachusetts, said she looks forward to sharing her experience as a woman in STEM. She also works at packaging company Sealed Air as a safety and quality coordinator at one of the firm’s product care facilities.

“This event is important to women in STEM because it gives them the ability to reflect on how far they’ve come, while also giving them an opportunity to

connect with other STEM women in the field,” Colon said. “This type of support from and for fellow women in STEM is important because we all share experiences that we can learn and reflect on. The diversity in panelists also emphasizes that we all have significant stories to tell at all levels and involvement.”

Unleash Your Inner STEM! is structured in two parts. It will begin with a panel of inspiring women in STEM who will share stories about their career trajectories. Three of these panelists are nationally known. Panelists include:

Maeliz Colon, first-generation engineering student, STCC graduate, and women in STEM advocate;

Prasha Dutra, engineer, speaker, and creator of the Her STEM Story podcast;

Marie Louis, Ph.D., engineer, data scientist and professor;

Sarah McAnulty, Ph.D., squid biologist, science communicator, and executive director of Skype a Scientist; and

Frances “Poppy” Northcutt, lawyer, women’s advocate, and first woman engineer at NASA Mission Control.

After the panel, participants can join small group breakout sessions about mentoring, jobs and internships, transitions (two-year to four-year transfer, college to workforce), self-promotion and branding, and strategies for survival in a majority-male field.

“A number of sessions specifically target community college students, but there’s something for everyone, including professionals, teachers, undergraduates, and graduate students,” McGinnis-Cavanaugh said.

To register, visit bit.ly/unleashstem.

Pioneer Valley Womxn in STEM is a regional network that connects, supports and empowers women in science, technology, engineering and mathematics fields including students and professionals.

Shelter to make presentation on violence against women

HOLYOKE – For over 40 years, Womenshelter/Compañeras has worked tirelessly to empower women and their children to live independently and free from domestic violence by providing prevention education, crisis intervention, a safe and confidential shelter, social and legal advocacy, housing, and related support services.

On Feb. 25 at 4 p.m., Womenshelter’s Executive Director, Carmen Nieves, will host Amy Waldman, Co-Director of Capacity Building and Equity Programs at the Department of Public Health, and Quynh Dang Program Director at the Department of Public

Health, to discuss their study, “Rates of Femicide in Women of Different Races, Ethnicities, and Places of Birth” a dataset collected in Massachusetts between 1993-2007.

The data that surrounds this community issue is startling. “Women of color may be less likely to report domestic violence abuse or seek help because of discrimination, negative stereotyping, or fear of law enforcement’s response,” says Nieves.

Following the presentation, our speakers will delve into what this data says about Western Mass-specific homicide rates and what makes our area dis-

tinctive. We will end the roundtable with a Q&A where participants can discuss how the data can inform community-based services and practices.

Domestic violence not only affects women and children. Womenshelter also serves men and extended family members through its community-based programs. There are now specialized services for domestic violence survivors over the age of 50, for those with mental or physical challenges, and for teens and young adults who need support navigating dating and intimate partner relationships.

In 2020, Womenshelter/Compañeras

provided services to 3,246 participants, the majority of whom identified as female (82%).

Womanshelter/Compañeras is dedicated to assisting, supporting, and empowering those whose lives are affected by battering and abuse. Founded in 1980 as a grassroots collective, the organization has sheltered more than 3,000 women and children and assisted 35,000 others through community-based support programs.

You may register here. For more information, contact Pamela Barnes, pbarnes@womanshelter.org or call 413-438-1717.

Mall to welcome Sbarro back

HOLYOKE – Bill Rogalski, General Manager for Holyoke Mall, is pleased to announce that Sbarro will be returning to Café Square. Sbarro, the leading quick serve restaurant brand serving pizza by the slice, will be reopening in the food court in early March.

Since 1956, Sbarro has been best known for its Original XL New-York-style pizza made with fresh, hand-stretched dough, San Marzano-style tomato sauce and hand-shredded 100% Whole Milk Mozzarella, and other authentic Italian favorites such as Pasta and Stromboli. More than 60 years later, a commitment to authentic, fresh Italian fare and treating guests like family remains Sbarro’s foundation. Sbarro favorites will soon be available for

dine-in, pick-up and delivery through DoorDash, GrubHub, UberEats, and more!

“We are excited to be reopening the Sbarro at Holyoke Mall,” said Sbarro Franchisee, Monir Saji. “Since our first franchised Sbarro restaurant opening in Massachusetts in 1998, we have been able to provide customers Italian specialty foods made with quality ingredients at a reasonable price and served quickly. Holyoke customers have shown they embraced not only the taste of the food but the convenience of pizza by the slice.”

Sbarro currently operates more than 600 stores in 25 countries. For free slices and more great offers, sign up for their Slice Society emails at sbarro.com.

Springfield College partners with HPS to offer employee grants

SPRINGFIELD – Springfield College has partnered with the Holyoke Public Schools in providing employee grants to full and part-time employees of Holyoke Public Schools, who are enrolled in either undergraduate, graduate, doctoral, or certificate of advanced graduate study programs at Springfield College.

“We are excited to embark on this partnership with Holyoke Public Schools. As we are committed to increasing the number of teachers of color completing our preparation programs, we are especially looking forward to the prospect of enrolling Holyoke paraprofessionals aspiring to become teachers and pursuing a bachelor’s degree,” said Springfield College Educator Preparation and Licensure Director Linda C. Davis-Delano. “Further, we see this partnership

providing an opportunity for teachers and other staff to pursue one of the numerous bachelor’s and master’s degree programs offered at Springfield College.”

Holyoke Public Schools employees are eligible to receive scholarships, which have been established by Springfield College to support its members being educated for leadership in service to others. Students must provide employment information to confirm their eligibility. For more information, check out springfield.edu/partnership.

“We are thrilled that Springfield College has continued to be a champion in our partnership to increase the number of teachers of color in Western Massachusetts,” stated Holyoke Public

See GRANTS page 8

Carlos Vega Fund for social justice grant applications available

HOLYOKE – The Carlos Vega Fund for Social Justice is inviting applications for the tenth round of mini grants. For more than 40 years, Carlos Vega fought for social justice in the Greater Holyoke area. In 2010, a small group of family and friends started the Fund to support the kind of social justice initiatives that were important to Carlos.

The Carlos Vega Fund for Social Justice awards small grants, typically ranging from \$250 to \$1,000, to individuals and non-profit groups for a specific,

one-time program or project that focuses on the fundamental primary causes of injustice, fosters change, and promotes self-help and empowerment. The purpose of the grants is to support the efforts of those who are addressing issues of poverty and oppression, and involve people who are socially and economically marginalized in Hampden County.

Previous mini grants have supported a variety of organizations including: Clinical and Support Options, Enchanted Circle Theater, Girls Inc. of

the Valley and Plunge Arts, First Shift Productions, Granby Public Schools, The Gray House, Holyoke Public Schools, Holyoke Safe Neighborhood Initiative, Holyoke Senior Center and Western Mass Elder Care, Home City Development, OneHolyoke CDC, The Performance Project, Treehouse, Seeds of a Father, and Wistariahurst Museum.

The Carlos Vega Fund for Social Justice is administered through the Community Foundation of Western Massachusetts and is overseen by an

advisory committee. Since 2012, the Fund has awarded \$59,402 to forty-one organizations in the greater Holyoke area.

Our deadline for applications is March 15, 2021. We expect to award grant funding on May 14, 2021. Grantees are expected to participate in the awards ceremony. For further information and/or to obtain an application, please visit the Carlos Vega Fund for Social Justice website at <http://www.carlosvegafund.org/> or contact Aaron Vega at carlosvega-fund.413@gmail.com or 413-522-0268.

Elms College, Big Y Supermarkets partner to provide vaccinations

CHICOPEE – College of Our Lady of the Elms and Big Y Supermarkets have formed a partnership to provide COVID-19 vaccinations to eligible residents in western Massachusetts.

In coordination with the Elms College School of Nursing, Big Y has established two COVID-19 vaccination clinics. One clinic site is in the former Staples store that is located in the Big Y Plaza in East Longmeadow at 443 North Main Street. The second is located in the Greenfield Big Y Plaza at 237 Mohawk Trail on Route 2, in a space formerly occupied by a mattress store.

“This collaboration with Big Y is a wonderful opportunity for the students and faculty of our School of Nursing to contribute to this important community service,” said Kathleen B. Scoble, Ed.D., M.Ed., M.A., RN, dean of the School of Nursing. “Our students are receiving a unique and impactful learning experience that will better prepare them as nurses. We have enjoyed working with the Big Y leadership who clearly value the communities they serve by bringing the much-needed COVID-19 vaccination to area residents.”

“Serving our communities is important to Big Y and the partnership with The Elms College School of Nursing has bolstered our capabilities to deliver this essential health care service,” said Steve Nordstrom, pharmacy director at Big Y Supermarkets. “By leveraging our strengths, we are able to meet the critical need to vaccinate as many members of our communities as possible. Working with the Elms College School of Nursing has been a pleasure and has resulted in clinics that offer a safe, comfortable, and expeditious experience.”

More than 200 Elms College School of Nursing students — sophomores, juniors and seniors — are participating in this joint effort with Big Y to administer and schedule COVID-19 vaccinations for

recipients identified in Phase 2, Group 1 of the state’s vaccination program. The students represent the college’s traditional undergraduate nursing program, as well as the RN to BSN, Master of Nursing, and Accelerated Second Degree in Nursing programs, and work under the supervision of Elms College School of Nursing faculty.

“These clinics are making a difference in people’s lives and vaccine recipients have told me how caring and professional our nursing students have been,” said Kathleen Pont, M.S., APRN, director of the Elms College Accelerated Second Degree in Nursing program and one of the college’s lead clinic coordinators.

“To date, we have run four clinics at the East Longmeadow site and one in Greenfield,” said Nordstrom. “We have vaccinated more than 1,000 members of our community, which is particularly important given that more vulnerable groups are currently being vaccinated according to state guidelines. Big Y has also identified additional sites for future clinics and these will be operational as soon as enough vaccine supply is available.”

“Some patients have driven two hours to these clinics and others are weeping because they are so grateful to receive the vaccine,” said clinic coordinator Deana Nunes, MSN, RN, CWCN, an Elms College assistant clinical nursing professor.

While some nursing students are administering the vaccines, others help monitor patients after the shots are administered. Elms nursing students also help patients schedule appointments for their second vaccine shot.

For more information on the clinics, to see if you qualify, and to schedule an appointment for a COVID-19 vaccination, visit: <https://www.bigy.com/Pharmacy/covid19-vaccine-faq>.

Input sought for Middle School Campus Learning Center

HOLYOKE – Parents/ guardians of middle school students, please complete our Middle School Campus Learning Center survey by Feb. 26, linked here, that will also be emailed and texted to you this week. These surveys will help guide our planning for Middle School Campus Learning Centers (CLCs) that we will open for students in grades 6-8 on March 29. CLCs are on campus learning spaces that offer full-day, in-person support from grades 6-8 HPS administrators and staff, while students still receive instruction online from their current teachers.

Both the HHS Dean and North campuses have run a CLC for high school students since mid-November. CLCs will provide students who may struggle with technology access and/or distracting home learning spaces with reliable internet access, technology support, and a focused learning environment.

The Middle School Campus Learning Center will be located on the third floor of Holyoke High School North Campus. Other key details include the following:

- All health and safety protocols will be followed (daily registration, masks, hand washing, mask breaks,

fresh air, and social distancing) and all necessary learning materials will be on hand and available.

- Based on social distancing guidelines, CLC classrooms will have up to 12-15 students per space.

- Each CLC will be supervised by one adult staff member.

- Grade 6-8 CLCs will be hosted in classrooms on the third floor at Holyoke High School North Campus.

- Students in CLCs follow the same schedule as their school’s remote learning schedule.

- All IEP/Language support services will continue to be delivered remotely.

- Students will attend a CLC on Mondays and Tuesdays, or Thursdays and Fridays. (Depending on enrollment, it may be possible for students to attend all 4 days).

- Breakfast and lunch will be provided in an adjacent space, where mask breaks will also be taken.

- Students are expected to attend every day, unless the student is sick, showing COVID-related symptoms or has been a close contact to someone with COVID, per HPS guidelines.

- If you live 1.5 miles or greater from North Campus you will be eligible for transportation.

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Interim Editor
Gregory Scibelli
thesun@turley.com

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Poetry Corner

No More Generation Gaps

By Thomas J. Kennedy

*The last 10 years,
Different than the one before...
Cell phone then
Whose house am I at?
“Mon pick me up
At that time.”*

*Alphabet soup almost gone
Don’t need any more labels.
When you look at a person
Look into their heart.*

*Give them your time, sincere interest
With privacy in trust.
You just don’t know what they been through.
From botched operations,
To angered families,
To scarred sexual childhoods.*

*Some children can get over it
But most lose self-image.
I pray God, you, just you
Will save them too.*



Guest Column

The Garden Lady tackles milk jug seed sowing, part 1

Barbara, who gardens in Wilbraham, wrote to me recently, complimenting the column (thank you!) and asking if I had any opinion of “winter sowing” seeds in re-used gallon jugs. This technique is all the rage right now on social media and in gardening blogs, and while I had read about it many years ago and again recently, I have never tried it myself. Perhaps some research into the topic would prove beneficial for me as well as my readers!

The basic premise of winter sowing is to plant your seeds in mini-greenhouses (the gallon jugs), place the jugs outside and simply let nature take over. The advantage being that no heat mats or lights are needed. No window sills full of seedlings, either. While I don’t think it is as simple as it sounds, I do think trying it would be a fun experiment. Read on this week and next to consider some of the pros and possible cons of this seed starting technique.

Years ago I read a blog where a master gardener was encouraging folks to start native perennials in milk jugs outside; he called it “winter sowing.” The seeds of many of these plants require a period of cold and



moist stratification to break seed dormancy. In simple terms, they need to go through winter in order to sprout. Think of it as nature’s safety mechanism; seeds germinate at the right time to survive and thrive! You may ask, then, why not just sow the seeds outdoors in the garden? In theory it sounds good, but in reality “the wild” is not the best seed bed. From hungry birds and rodents, to wind and drenching rains, success is hit or miss. Safely inside the milk jug, but at the same time outside in the elements to freeze and thaw, freeze and thaw, tricky seeds are coaxed into germinating. Success at your fingertips!

My method of combating tricky germinators has always been the refrigerator. By putting seeds in moist soil in a small plastic bag and chilling them for a month or so at 40 degrees, I am usually successful at providing an abbreviated “winter,” satisfying germination requirements that break dormancy. Recently, I watched a video from a wildflower specialist in Canada, who abbreviated “winter” a bit further. She simply places seeds in the fridge for 24 hours, then the freezer for 24 hours. Five times back and forth and she swears dormancy is broken.

After the period of stratification has passed, seeds are handled as normal, sown on the surface of a moist soilless mix with the provision of bottom heat and supplemental light. But what if I didn’t have the props, or even enough window sills to limp along seedlings inside? Here is where I think sowing in milk jugs could be of benefit, and it goes beyond “winter” or even seeds that need specialized treatments to germinate.

More recent blogs speak of starting everything from cold-hardy annuals to heat-loving vegetables inside milk jugs, and while I don’t think the method is fool-proof, or meant for the lazy gardener, I do think there is good reason to give it a try. Gather some supplies: duct tape, empty gallon jugs, decent seed starting soil, a paint pen and a selection of seeds. Perennial herbs and flowers can be sown right away and next week the how-to portion will explain exactly how to do it.

Roberta McQuaid graduated from the Stockbridge School of Agriculture at the University of Massachusetts. For the last 28 years, she has held the position of staff horticulturalist at Old Sturbridge Village. She enjoys growing food as well as flowers. Have a question for her? Email it to ekennedy@turley.com with “Gardening Question” in the subject line.

History Matters

Feb 16 to Feb. 28

Twenty years after the United States was freed of Britain, America went to war, again, this time against the populous pirate population in the Mediterranean. Pocketed throughout Africa, in Morocco, Algeria, Tunis and Tripolitania [Libya], they ambushed U.S. merchant ships, seized cargoes, commandeered crews and collected large ransoms. Hostilities got so heated that President Jefferson dispatched the Navy in 1801.

In October 1803, the Philadelphia, a part of an expeditionary force, ran aground off the coast of Tripoli, and was captured, causing concern that America’s proprietary know-how would be re-constituted in enemy warships.

On Feb. 16, Lt. Stephen Decatur and 74 of his men, including nine marines, disguised themselves as Maltese sailors, crept into Tripolitan waters, boarded the Philadelphia, overpowered the crew and torched the vessel.

The daring nature of their perfectly executed mission, without a single American casualty, was heralded around the world. Even British Admiral Horatio Nelson, arguably the most famous seafaring hero of the time, called it the “most daring act of the age.”

The Grateful American Book Prize rec-

ommends “Thomas Jefferson and the Tripoli Pirates: The Forgotten War That Changed American History,” by Brian Kilmeade and Don Yaeger.

Polio vaccine

On Feb. 23, 1954, the students at Arsenal Elementary School in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, were the first to receive a vaccine, developed by Dr. Jonas Salk, to repel the polio pandemic that was panicking the population.

Now, 67 years later, scientists are hustling to disseminate various COVID-19 inoculations to control, or collapse, another ungovernable disease.

According to History.com, “Salk found that polio had as many as 125 strains of three basic types, and that an effective vaccine needed to combat all three. By growing samples of the polio virus and then deactivating, or ‘killing’ them by adding a chemical called formalin, Salk developed his vaccine, which was able to immunize without infecting the patient.”

The disease was eradicated in 1979.

For more information, the Grateful American Book Prize recommends “Polio

(Deadly Diseases & Epidemics),” by Alan Hecht.

“The Greatest of All Time”

On February 25, 1964, a 22-year-old newcomer to boxing, by the name of Cassius Clay, catapulted to the world heavyweight champion. He snatched the title from Sonny Liston in the seventh round of a “David and Goliath” match in Miami Beach, Florida. The odds were against Clay; Liston was the 8 to 1 favorite, but that didn’t faze the cocky challenger who predicted his victory in the eighth round, bragging that he would “float like a butterfly, sting like a bee.”

It took him six rounds to win the title in the seventh, when Liston conceded defeat.

Young people might not “recognize” Cassius Clay; that’s because he became “Muhammed Ali”, after he joined the African American Muslim group, the Nation of Islam.

The Website Quora calls Ali “the greatest boxer ever,” having won 56 out of his 61 bouts during his 20-year career that ended abruptly in 1984 when he was diagnosed with Parkinson’s Disease. He has been

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the **Sun**

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PATRICK H. TURLEY
CEO

KEITH TURLEY
President

INTERIM EDITOR
Greg Scibelli
thesun@turley.com

STAFF WRITER
Peter Spotts
pspotts@turley.com

ADVERTISING SALES
Wendy Delcamp
wdelcamp@turley.com

SPORTS EDITOR
Greg Scibelli
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A Quote

OF NOTE

*“It is better
to offer
no excuse
than a
bad one.”*

– George
Washington

Letters to the Editor Policy

Letters to the Editor have a maximum of 350 words. We require writers to include their name, address and phone number in order for our office to authenticate authorship prior to publication. Addresses and phone numbers are not published.

Unsigned or anonymous letters will NOT be published.

We reserve the right to edit or withhold any submissions. Libelous, unsubstantiated allegations, personal attacks or defamation of character are not allowed.

Deadline for submissions is Wednesday at noon.

Please email (preferred) letters to thesun@turley.com. Mailed letters can be sent to *The Sun*, 24 Water Street, Palmer, MA 01069.

HCC Women’s Leadership Series continues

HOLYOKE – Business coach and strategist Lynn Turner of Clear Alliance Inc., and Moe Belliveau, executive director of the Easthampton Chamber of Commerce, will give a presentation titled “Maintaining Power and Grace While Glass Ceilings Are Being Shattered,” as the Holyoke Community College Spring Women’s Leadership Luncheon Series continues on Wed., Feb. 24.

The 2021 Women’s Leadership Luncheon Series takes place over Zoom on the last Wednesdays of January, February, March, April and May from 12 noon to 1:15 p.m.

Each month, participants join a group of women leaders to discuss current issues and ideas to help their leadership



Moe Belliveau



Lynn Turner

development. They will also have the opportunity to form a supportive network of women leaders to help navigate their careers.

Each lunch-time event features two presenters leading discussions on different topics:

Feb. 24: “Maintaining Power and Grace with Glass Ceilings Being Shattered” – Lynn Turner, coach and business strategist, Clear Vision Alliance, Inc., of Belchertown; Moe Belliveau, executive director, Easthampton Chamber of Commerce.

March 31: “Women’s Leadership from a Male Perspective” – Presenters TBD

April 28: “Courageous

Actions” – Dr. Sarah Perez McAdoo, MD, population health capstone director, University of Massachusetts Medical School; Jessica Collins, executive director, Public Health Institute of Western Mass.

May 26: “Leading Through Change” – Margaret Tantillo, executive director, Dress for Success Western Massachusetts; Jess Roncarati-Howe, program director, Dress for Success Western Massachusetts.

The first session on Jan. 27 focused on “Compassion Fatigue” with presenters Luz Lopez, executive director of MetroCare of Springfield, and Annamarie Golden, director of Community Relations for Baystate Health

Sessions are \$20 each or \$50 for the full series. Space is limited. Advance registration is required.

To register, please go to: hcc.edu/leadership-luncheons

COLLEGE NEWS

Ardila makes Dean’s List at RIT

ROCHESTER, NY – Darlene Ardila of Holyoke was named to the Dean’s List at Rochester Institute of Technology for the 2020 Fall Semester. Ardila is in the web and mobile computing program.

Undergraduate students are eligible for Dean’s List if their GPA is greater than or equal to 3.40 for nine credits of traditionally graded coursework; they do not have any grades of “Incomplete,” NE, D, or F; and they have registered for, and completed, at least 12 credit hours.

Students named to UH Dean’s List

WEST HARTFORD, Conn. – The University of Hartford is pleased to announce the following students have been named to the Dean’s List for Fall 2020: Devin Beauregard, Ian Beauregard, Emily Leblanc, all of Holyoke.

Send us news & photos: thesun@turley.com

Curbside corned beef and cabbage dinner planned

HOLYOKE – The Ancient Order of Hibernians-James A. Curran Division One and The Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians Division Two of Hampden/Hampshire Counties are sponsoring a “2021 Irish Night in Holyoke-A Go Go”, a curbside pickup of a Traditional Corned Beef and Cabbage Dinner and Ribs prepared by the Log Cabin

of Holyoke. The event is Saturday, March 6, 2021 at the Log Cabin 500 Easthampton Rd. in Holyoke-pickup is from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. on that date. The cultural event will benefit the Maurice A. Donahue Memorial Scholarship and is in memory of Daniel P. Curran.

The Log Cabin will prepare and feature a traditional corned beef and cab-

bage dinner and ribs, hash, carrots, potatoes, brown bread, and dessert. The cost is \$25.00 per person and includes the meal and one entry into our 50/50 raffle.

For reservations contact Joe O’Connor at 413-627-7148 or Fran Hennessey at 413-785-5687 by Feb. 27 or online at Eventbrite.com. The Hibernian website is aoh-holyoke.com.

Free income tax assistance available through VITA program

SPRINGFIELD – Springfield Partner for Community Action is gearing up for the annual free Volunteer Income Tax Assistance Program (VITA). Income eligible taxpayers earning less than \$57,000 annually qualify and should call 413- 263-6500 to schedule an appointment.

VITA volunteers assist low wage earners complete their 2020 federal and state income tax returns in addition to the earned income tax credits, child tax credit and education credits. Further making sure taxpayer claim and receive all state and federal tax benefits, including the Federal Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC). EITC is a federal income tax benefit designed to assist working families. It has been called the most significant federal program of lifting Americans out of poverty.

Paul F. Bailey, executive director, said, “although we are closed to the public, the agency continues to assist participants. “This year due to COVID-19 we are implementing a new system using a drop box method. Drop box will

allow participants to safely drop-off all required tax documents in advance. Volunteer tax preparers will complete and follow up. Completed taxes will be mailed or we can arrange for pickups”.

Springfield Partners also offer the Low-Income Taxpayer Clinic (LITC) designed to assist taxpayers having issues before the IRS and/or the State Department of Revenue. If you’ve received a notice form either state of federal tax authority or if you need to file prior year taxes you should call Mary Ellen at 413-263-6500 ext. 6565 or Marty O’Connor at 413-263-6500 ext. 6566.

Springfield Partners is the official anti-poverty agency serving greater Springfield and parts of Western MA. We offer several programs and services including Eviction Clinic, Housing Counseling, Credit Counseling, Financial Literacy, Weatherization, Veterans Services, Emergency Fuel, New Beginnings Early Education & Care, COVID-19 Emergency Response, Scholarships and Telephone Reassurance.

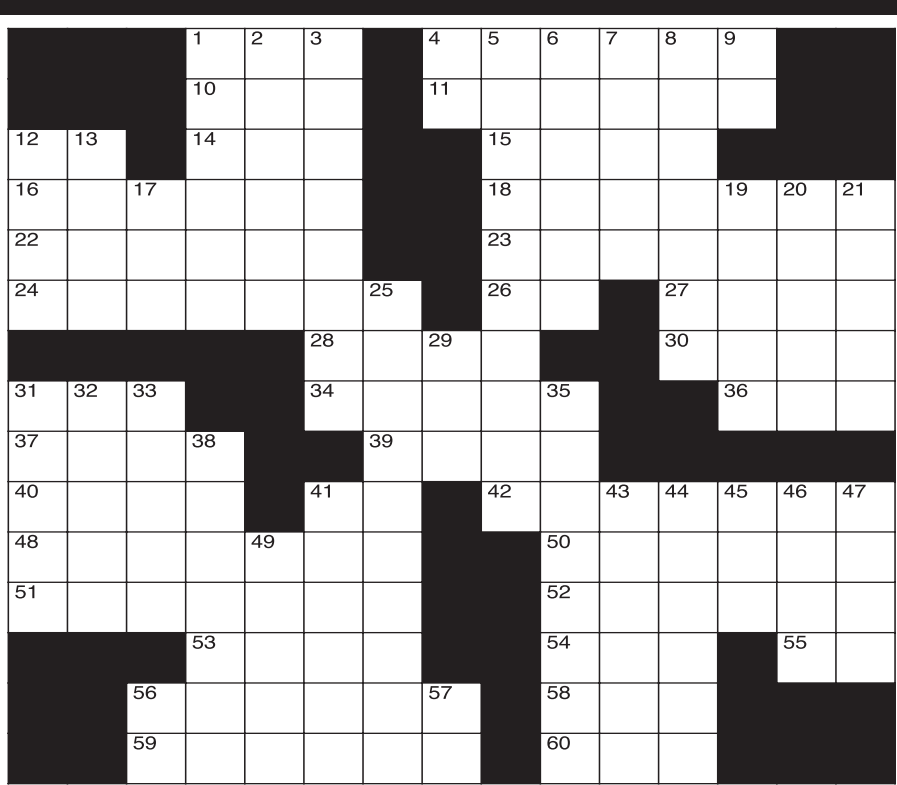
HISTORY, from page 4

called one of the most significant and celebrated figures of the 20th century and one of the greatest boxers of all time. Indeed, as President George W. Bush put it when he presented Ali with the Presidential Medal of Freedom in November of 2005, “Only a few athletes are ever known as the greatest in their sport, or in their time. But when you say, ‘The Greatest of All Time’ is in the

room, everyone knows who you mean.” Muhammad Ali, boxer, activist, entertainer and philanthropist, passed away on June 3, 2016.

The Grateful American Book Prize recommends “The Greatest: Muhammad Ali” by Walter Dean Myers.

History Matters is a biweekly feature courtesy of The Grateful American Book Prize, which is given to children’s books that emphasize the importance of American history.



CLUES ACROSS

- 1. Big tech firm
- 4. Picked
- 10. Type of whale
- 11. A woman of refinement
- 12. New England state
- 14. Common gibbon
- 15. Tall coniferous tree
- 16. State capital
- 18. Making a liquid muddy
- 22. Vinegary
- 23. Peninsula
- 24. Thee
- 26. Atomic #55
- 27. Used in units of measurement
- 28. Welsh female name
- 30. Arab ruler title
- 31. One's mother

- 34. Trap
- 36. Soviet Socialist Republic
- 37. Assn. of oil-producing countries
- 39. Holy fire
- 40. Emit coherent radiation
- 41. Atomic #81
- 42. Orthodox Jewish college
- 48. Herbs
- 50. Ran after
- 51. Begin again
- 52. Named
- 53. Barbary sheep
- 54. Unwell
- 55. Postscript
- 56. Drivers
- 58. One point east (clockwise) of due north
- 59. Prim
- 60. A facility

equipped for sports or physical training

CLUES DOWN

- 1. Small islands
- 2. Skullcap
- 3. Unexplained events
- 4. One hundredth of a meter
- 5. Beloved baseball announcer
- 6. Repulsive
- 7. Northern European languages
- 8. Match or surpass
- 9. Northeast
- 12. Chew the fat
- 13. Innovative industry
- 17. Land to put down to grass
- 19. Products
- 20. Nostril
- 21. Surprise Icelandic politician
- 25. Conclusive acts
- 29. Inform on
- 31. Grinding tooth
- 32. Keep up
- 33. Tablelands
- 35. Raising
- 38. Mythical creature
- 41. Hums
- 43. Mountain in Antarctica
- 44. Neighborhood in Manhattan
- 45. Distinctive practice
- 46. Vice president
- 47. Contributes to
- 49. Small bones
- 56. Oil company
- 57. Empire State

CROSSWORD ANSWER on page 9

CHECK OUT ALL THE

Turley Publications

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Stars could be aligning for East-West rail project

By Michael Harrison
mharrison@turley.com

EAST LONGMEADOW – One day, two college buddies caught up while wrangling luggage from a plane in Gary, Indiana. Chances are, neither thought the vicissitudes of life would lead one of them to a place on the world's stage before his 40th birthday.

The plane they unloaded carried the belongings of then-presidential candidate and first-term U.S. Senator Barack Obama and his campaign staff. Eric Lesser, a campaign aide who went on to serve in the White House as special assistant to David Axelrod, Obama's chief advisor, had let his good friend "Pete," a native of South Bend, Indiana, know he would be in the Hoosier state and maybe they could spend some time together.

Perhaps the two former Harvard students grabbed dinner or a beer later. Friends for life at that point, they still get together when they can. Or, Pete being Pete, he may have used all the free time he had that day helping his old pal unload that plane. Even if that bit of trivia is confined to the dustbin of history, it's wholly inconsequential compared to how their lives would continue to intersect.

Lesser, a state senator representing the 1st Hampden and Hampshire District – including Ludlow, Wilbraham, Hampden, East Longmeadow, Longmeadow, Granby, Belchertown, and parts of Chicopee and Springfield – is no stranger to Pete's new boss, President Joe Biden.

Pete – Pete Buttigieg, a.k.a. Mayor Pete – started to make his name as the second youngest mayor in South Bend history at age 29 in 2012, and later as a rival to Biden in the 2020 primaries. He now serves in Biden's cabinet as Secretary of Transportation.

For Lesser, who's passionate about the proposed East-West passenger rail line from Boston to Pittsfield with depots in Springfield and Palmer, it might not hurt to have friends in high places.

How they met? Taking a 'brain break'

They spent only one year as schoolmates, though Lesser and Buttigieg probably would have become friends regardless of how they met. Both have an enduring intellectual curiosity, are service-minded, and can talk policy like others talk sports. Still, when they met, one



Back in 2008, Harvard grads Pete Buttigieg and Eric Lesser pose for a photo outside then candidate Barack Obama's campaign plane. Courtesy photo

was getting his feet wet in Cambridge while the other was preparing for post-grad life.

"I was a freshman and he was a senior at the time," Lesser said. "I would describe him as a bit of a big man on campus. He was president of the Institute of Politics, which was kind of the youth political center at Harvard. But he didn't carry himself that way. He is a pretty understated guy. He was sort of universally liked, well known, but not in a sort of outlandish or braggadocious way."

In other words, kind of cool?

"It was very much a kind of quiet charisma," Lesser said.

When they met, Lesser found out the accomplished senior was humble enough to offer friendship to the newbies.

"And he had a reputation as being a really sincere and really brilliant person and very committed to his hometown even then," Lesser said. "I remember actually the first time we met, we met up for something that was called 'brain break,' when they would put out snacks in the dining hall in the middle of the night, like around midnight. People would take breaks from studying or from the library and they would go to the dining hall to get these snacks. And I remember meeting up with him and I was just a kid from Longmeadow who found myself at Harvard, and we met up at the brain break and we chatted. It was clear pretty quickly that he was a really unique talent and a unique person."

One of the first things they bonded over was embracing their roots.

"He was very committed to his

hometown," Lesser said.

Lesser, who strengthened his activist bones in high school fighting to reverse teacher layoffs, admired how Buttigieg looked for ways to leverage education and experience to help lift their communities.

"I was really drawn to that because that was really the story I identified with, so we became friendly and we kept in touch," Lesser said. "He graduated, of course, and I was still in school, and whenever he was back in Cambridge or back on campus, we would try to meet up and we kept in touch."

When Buttigieg lived in Chicago, Obama's home base, Lesser and Buttigieg would spend time whenever the campaign made a weekly stop in the Windy City so then-candidate Obama could spend a weekend with his family.

"About once a week, we would end up back in Chicago, and Pete and I fell into a bit of a routine of hanging out on Saturdays and on Sundays, and then I went to work at the White House, and I remember him talking to me about the house he was preparing to buy in South Bend, the work he was doing there," Lesser said. "I remember he called me one day and said that he was going to be running for state treasurer of Indiana and I thought that was a great idea."

"Unfortunately, that campaign didn't go as planned," he said. "But I think he did learn a lot. And he really got to be well-known in the state, but it was a really hard time. This was the 2010 election cycle, one of the hardest years for Democrats. Indiana in particular was a

very interesting state at that time because it was really one of the ground zeroes of the recession. The Kokomo (Ind.) auto plant, for example, had laid off significant numbers of people. You had a significant auto industry in Indiana that was very hard hit by the recession."

Buttigieg's opponent in that race for treasurer, Richard Mourdock, went on to oppose the Obama administration's bailout of the auto industry during the recession.

"I mean, he was actually suing to block the Obama auto rescue at the time and really hurting his own state, which had tens of thousands of jobs tied up in the auto industry," Lesser said. "And (Buttigieg) really helped elevate that issue and bring that to the forefront."

Not long after that, Buttigieg made a life-changing decision.

"He was approached by community leaders in his hometown in South Bend and I remember him calling me and saying, 'you know, I'm thinking about running for mayor' and I said 'cool – that sounds great.' And of course, he won."

While Buttigieg was settling in as mayor of that well-known college town, Lesser paid a visit and the two took in Lesser's first Notre Dame football game.

"It was an out-of-body experience," Lesser laughed, recalling the passion of the Fighting Irish faithful.

"It was pretty incredible. It was very cool and I saw firsthand how much he was, frankly, just beloved in his community."

Lives intersecting again

Before the game, Lesser, staying at Buttigieg's place, came downstairs while Buttigieg was dealing with – wait for it – a transportation issue.

"He was on the phone with his DPW about issues that had happened overnight," Lesser said. "It was like first thing in the morning, he was on the line with this DPW head and now he's dealing with a lot of the same issues – just on a bigger scale."

Speaking of, Lesser can't guarantee that Buttigieg can help move the needle on the East-West Rail project, which is now largely in the hands of MassDOT, including a second look at what the plan's supporters, including Lesser, Rep. Jake Oliveira, Sen. Anne Gobi, and Rep. Todd Smola, say is a gross underestimate of projected ridership. But federal advo-

See RAIL page 9

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PATHFINDER DEFEATS HAMPDEN CHARTER



Last Friday evening, Hampden Charter was defeated in a home game against Pathfinder Regional 65-41. Hampden Charter serves students in the Holyoke, Chicopee, and West Springfield, and Springfield areas. Left, Cameron Ranck gets ready to shoot. Center, Charter Kristopher Pacunas heads for the free throw line. Right, the Hampden Charter defense tries to stop a shot.

Photos by David Henry www.sweetdogphotos.com

Vigeant looks to make his mark

SEEKONK – Kurt Vigeant will look to make his mark in the Tri Track Open Modified Series in 2021. The driver of the familiar white and orange No. 7 is set to compete in all of the races in the new season and hopes to continue to make gains into the top 10 as part of one of the most competitive fields in Modified racing.

Vigeant, who has been involved in racing since the age of 12, broke into the sport with AMA Motocross and became the Grand National Champion. He continued into the Pro 4 Modifieds, where he went to Victory Lane, then became a two-time cham-

pion at Thompson Speedway Motorsports Park in their Modified division. All of this experience drove his interest to move into the Tour-Type Modifieds, where he runs today, specifically with Tri Track. He's hoping to make gains on his previous efforts during the 2021 season.

"When I started in these types of Modifieds we ran a few races, then totaled the car and it took two years to fix it because we didn't have the funds," Vigeant said. "I enjoy the schedule that Tri Track has with the bullring tracks. I don't think anyone is content where they are running, until you are

on the top."

Vigeant is no stranger to the series, competing at all of the tracks that Tri Track will visit during the 2021 season. Enjoying the bullrings makes Tri Track a perfect fit -- as the series makes the schedule based off the tracks that equal the playing field and put the capabilities of the driver into the forefront.

"I've had good success when it comes to qualifying for the features," Vigeant said. "I think I've only missed two since I started running with Tri Track. But I'm lacking those finishes... I need some luck. It's tough to compete, as an underfunded team, on a series with a lot of talent. But we are fighting, and I couldn't do it without my sponsor and my team."

Vigeant carries the colors of Gary Rice Equipment and Service on the car, and has a variety of crew members that are regulars with him at the track. He is always looking for additional sponsors to help him get through the season, whether big or small. Crew members include Rob Anderson, Josh O'Connell, Joey Pole, Billy Bodreau (crew chief), Melissa O'Connell, Dennis West,



Kurt Vigeant will be among hopefuls in Tri Track series this year.

Submitted photo

See RACING page 8

MIAA hoping for successful Fall 2 season

FRANKLIN – The Massachusetts Interscholastic Athletic Association (MIAA) COVID-19 Task Force representatives presented Fall II Season sport modifications and recommendations today for the 2020-2021 year to the MIAA Board of Directors.

This presentation culminated the MIAA governance process which included sport-specific sub-committee meetings where current Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs (EEA) and Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary (DESE) guidelines were reviewed. Sport sub-committees created or updated sport specific modifications, presented them for approval to the full sport committee and then presented, for approval, to the MIAA Sports Medicine Committee (SMC). The MIAA Covid-19 Task force subsequently reviewed and approved the modifications.

MIAA Executive Director Bill Gaine stated, "Today's actions by the MIAA's Board of Directors are the culmination of the work of our membership committed to establishing

optimal standards of health and safety that will provide the restoration of Fall sports for 1000s of MIAA student-athletes."

The MIAA Board of Directors voted to approve sport-specific modifications for the Fall II Season. These modifications will continue to be reviewed as they relate to current regulations surrounding COVID-19 and may be modified if necessary. Additional modifications or the decision to participate in MIAA-recognized Fall II sports will be determined by local school districts and/or their local Boards of Health. You may view the Task Force presentation HERE.

MIAA President Jeffrey Granatino said, "We made adjustments in the fall and had a success first season. We made additional modifications for the winter and our student-athletes have been actively engaged since December. Now we are hopeful that with the guidance from the Governor's office and of EEA, along with the work of our various committees, that we will be

See MIAA, page 8

Bay State Games partners with charter schools

WOBURN – Bay State Games is excited to announce new partnerships with the Massachusetts Charter School Athletic Organization (MCSAO) and New England Preparatory School Athletic Conference (NEPSAC). Bay State Games has a long history with the Massachusetts Secondary School Athletic Directors Association, and now with this new partnership with the MCSAO and NEPSAC, BSG is hoping to reach all Massachusetts high school students.

Both the MCSAO and NEPSAC organize athletic championships for their respective leagues and reach thousands of student-athletes every year. Bay State Games hopes this partnership will help

share athletic and educational opportunities to every high school student-athlete in Massachusetts.

“The MCSAO is very excited to partner with an organization like the Bay State Games. Working together we are hopeful to provide more opportunities for student-athletes to compete in different high-level athletic tournaments and venues,” says Drew Betts, Co-Executive Director of the Massachusetts Charter School Athletic Organization. “In addition, we are pleased that this will be additional avenues for student athletes within the MCSAO to work with the Bay State Games to promote teamwork and sportsmanship in support of the

Games mission.”

Of the new partnership, NEPSAC President George Tahan said, “We at NEPSAC are thrilled to be able to partner with the Bay State Games and help afford NEPSAC student-athletes with additional opportunities to participate in a number of sports and event offerings. NEPSAC’s principle purpose aligns seamlessly with the Bay State Games mission of ‘promoting personal development, education, physical fitness, teamwork, and sportsmanship’ and we at NEPSAC look forward to long and rewarding relationship.”

Offering opportunities to compete in Bay State Summer and Winter Games

events, Future Leaders Scholarship Program, High School Ambassador Program, and Sportsmanship Program as well as coaching opportunities for high school coaches is the goal of this partnership.

“Ensuring that all high school student-athletes in Massachusetts are aware of and have access to all Bay State Games programs is an important goal of our organization,” said Executive Director, Kevin Cummings. “These collaborations with the NEPSAC and MCSAO will help us achieve this goal and highlight the outstanding athletes, coaches, and administrators from both organizations.

Relics softball sign-ups available

LUDLOW – The Western Mass Relics has opened registration for the 2021 Senior Softball Season. The Silver Division (age 50 to 64) has filled 36 of the 112 spots and the Gold Division (65-and-up) has filled 32 of the 96 spots. The registrations are accepted on a first come first serve basis. All our games are played at the Fish & Game in Ludlow. For further information or to register go to <http://www.westernmassrelics.org>.

Pioneers to host Pelham clinic

LUDLOW – Western United Pioneers FC is excited to offer a soccer clinic in Pelham, MA for players in the Massachusetts North Region. The clinic provides off-season training and skill development by WUP FC coaches. The second sessions available.

This program is offered to boys and girls born in 2010, 2011, 2012, 2013, and 2014. The four-week program includes one practice per week for a total of \$65



per session. Sessions will consist of a max of 15 players per field (COVID regulation for the players’ safety).

SESSION 2: MONDAYS 2/22, 3/1, 3/8, and 3/15

- Boys and Girls Born 2013 and 2014: Session is at 5 p.m.
- Boys and Girls Born 2010, 2011, and 2012: Session is at 6 p.m.

The sessions will be held at Pelham Elementary School at 45 Amherst Road, Pelham, MA 01002.

Follow Turley Sports on Instagram

Turley Publications sports department has recently joined Instagram. You can find our account by searching “turleysports.” We will regularly feature samples of photos that you will see in our publications on a weekly basis. Please follow and share with your friends and loved ones. We will be featuring photos from all 11 of our sports sections in the coming weeks, you can also see all the photos in your local paper.

How to contact the Sports Editor

Have the scoop on a local sports story? Want to submit a team photo, pass along a potential story idea, or just find out how to get a copy of that great photo of your young athlete? Please send all sports-related press releases and information to Sports Editor Greg Scibelli at: sports@turley.com or call, 1-413-283-8393.

Hampshire association seeking umpires

REGION – The Hampshire Franklin Baseball Umpire Association (HFBUA) is planning to conduct classes for the 2021 baseball season following all recommended COVID-19 protocols including the possibility of on-line instruction. The association covers umpiring of scholastic baseball for all of Hampshire and

Franklin county schools registered under MIAA and several other baseball leagues in the area. If you are interested in umpiring baseball or obtaining further information regarding the upcoming classes please contact Roger Booth - Secretary/Treasurer of the HFBUA via email at quilt hunter@comcast.net.

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MIAA, from page 7

able to have a safe and successful Fall II Season.” You may view all MIAA sport modifications on the MIAA COVID-19 webpage.

The following sports have been approved by the MIAA for the Fall II Season: Cheerleading, Football, Indoor Track, and Unified Basketball. The fol-

lowing sports were approved for the Fall I Season, however, local districts may have decided to move them to the Fall II Season: Cross Country, Dance, Golf, Field Hockey, Soccer, Swim and Dive, and Volleyball.

The timeframe of the MIAA Fall II Season is February 22-April 25, 2021. There will be no MIAA sponsored post-season tournament for the Fall II Season.

RACING, from page 7

Carroll Vescovi and others, when necessary and available.

“The crew supports me no matter what happens,” Vigeant said. “My mom and dad -- they are first -- my dad is a diehard. His health has been going south a bit, so we are just taking it race-by-race and remembering every moment we have together.”

His goal in the 2021 season is to continue to take it race-by-race, improve on his finishing positions and aim for the

top-five in the six series events.

“I’m hoping that this year we can run much better and run in the front,” Vigeant said. “It comes down to how much money we can gather as a small team. We go to each race, buy four or five tires, and do the best we can. We do it for the love of the sport.”

The Tri Track Open Modified Series season opens in May at Monadnock Speedway. For more information on the series, visit tritrackmodifieds.com and follow the series on social media. For more information on Souza Media, visit kylesouza.com.

GRANTS, from page 2

Schools Human Resources Manager Kelly Curran. “We are especially grateful that the college has extended a generous grant opportunity to Holyoke Public Schools paraprofessionals who are interested in furthering their education and giving back to the community. This opportunity supports our commitment to build and retain a workforce that is not only the most qualified to teach the students of Holyoke, but also celebrates and

reflects the rich diversity of our students.”

Employees of Holyoke Public Schools can receive the employee grant for each degree pursued at the College, and participants will be awarded potential transfer credits who have completed trainings and certifications as outlined in the College’s experiential learning handbook.

In addition, the College will provide a pathway for Holyoke Public Schools employees, once enrolled, to earn additional credits for their degree program through the College’s prior learning assessment portfolio program.

Outdoor opportunities for school vacation week

BOSTON – The Department of Conservation and Recreation announced that it will offer family-friendly Trip-Tips, self-guided adventures and suggested hikes for approximately 20 state park facilities during the traditional February school vacation week. Programming can be enjoyed at any time starting on Saturday, Feb. 13, 2021. DCR Trip-Tips provide children and their families with self-guided activity ideas to lead their exploration of a local state park or watershed. The Trip-Tips include activities like winter birding, wildlife observation, history tours, and scavenger hunts. For a full list of Trip-Tips, visit DCR’s website.

“This winter, DCR is thrilled to offer school vacation Trip-Tips encouraging children and their families to enjoy the fresh air and experience self-guided opportunities in their local state park,” said Department of Conservation and Recreation Commissioner Jim Montgomery. “The Baker-Polito Administration continues to increase both access within our state parks system and opportunities for the public to enjoy the many recreational resources available to them.”

In addition to the school vacation week programming, DCR is offering

public skating at Kelly Outdoor Rink from 12 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. Sundays through Fridays and 2 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. on Saturdays. DCR is also offering self-guided suggested hiking adventures at approximately 70 locations statewide. The DCR Trip-Tip itineraries and self-guided recommended hikes can be found on the DCR website. For winter hiking safety tips, visit the DCR YouTube page.

Some programming highlights include:

Central Massachusetts Step Back in Time at Quabbin Reservoir

Location: Quabbin Reservoir, 100 Winsor Dam Road, Belchertown

Quabbin Reservoir is a vital water supply source for approximately 3 million people in Massachusetts. Participants will discover three unique areas in the Quabbin Reservation that spotlight what life was like before four towns were removed to build the reservoir: Quabbin Park, Quabbin Park Cemetery, and Dana Common (Gate 40). Please note, dogs are not allowed anywhere in Quabbin Park or Quabbin Reservation. Suitable for all ages. No parking fees apply.

Western Massachusetts Winter Wanders

Location: Wendell State Forest, 392 Wendell Rd, Millers Falls

- Canalside Rail Trail, Unity Park, 2 Avenue A, Turners Falls
- Mount Tom State Reservation, 125 Reservation Road, Holyoke
- DAR State Forest, 78 Cape Street, Goshen

Wander through winter with this series of park adventures, with Trip-Tips all along the Connecticut River Valley. From mountain vistas to valley snow and rushing rivers, your travels include Wendell State Forest, the Canalside Rail Trail, Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) State Reservation, and Mount Tom State Reservation. Choose one park, two parks, or make it a multi-day adventure and challenge yourself to visit all four parks with your family during February school vacation week, or anytime this winter. Suitable for all ages. No parking fees apply.

Visitors are encouraged to tweet, post, and tag photos on social media using @MassDCR and #DCRTripTips.

DCR asks visitors to park in designated areas only, and to come back another time if a parking lot is full.

Many visitor centers remain closed. However, restrooms or porta-johns within many DCR parks remain open. Dogs are required to be on leash in state parks unless signage designates otherwise. Dogs are not permitted on DCR Water Supply Protection areas. To find a dog-friendly park, visit the DCR website.

When visiting state parks, DCR offers general guidance for visitors to follow:

- If a facility or park is crowded, please consider leaving the area and either visiting a different location or returning at a later date or time (typically state parks are less busy during the week and/or early in the morning);
- Follow posted rules, such as “carry in, carry out” trash policies and posted parking restrictions and pet waste disposal policies;
- Stay within solitary or small groups, and avoid gatherings of ten or more people;
- Practice social distancing of at least six feet between individuals;
- Wear a facial mask or covering in public;
- Practice healthy personal hygiene, such as handwashing for at least 20 seconds.

RAIL, from page 6

cacy and funding is essential. Having an influential friend who also happens to be a fan of public transportation and infrastructure renewal can’t hurt.

“We’ll certainly be talking to him,” Lesser said.

“Now we have a federal government that’s going to be approaching rail and is going to be approaching mass trans-

sit from the standpoint of ‘how can we help’ rather than a standpoint of ‘how do we stop it.’ And frankly, that’s why I think it’s even more urgent that we have our state government do its part, which means that they need a ridership analysis that’s accurate,” he said.

“The Baker administration needs to make rail a bigger priority and they’ve got to do this improved demand analysis and they need to do a full environmen-

tal analysis of what the benefits would be,” Lesser said. “So, I don’t want to let the state off the hook because the Baker administration needs to do its part to really prioritize this project and get those ridership estimates where they need to be.”

“That being said, we have really a united front now federally that we haven’t had in a very long time. President Biden, all the way through his vice president, through his secretary of transpor-

tation, are now going to be looking at a project like this,” he said. “And Pete knows about this project because I’ve talked to him about it over the years. So he’s not going to be looking at it completely new.”

And if it comes to fruition during the Biden administration, the friendship between a small town intellectual from Indiana and another from Western Mass. could be partly to thank for it.

Public Notices

Commonwealth of Massachusetts The Trial Court Hampden Probate and Family Court 50 State Street Springfield, MA 01103 (413)748-7758 Docket No. HD20C0166CA In the matter of: Julia Katherine Bannister CITATION ON PETITION TO CHANGE NAME

A Petition to Change Name of Adult has been filed by **Julia Katherine Bannister of Holyoke, MA** requesting that the court enter a Decree changing their name to:

Julia Maryam Lauzier

IMPORTANT NOTICE

Any person may appear for purposes of objecting to the petition by filing an appearance at: **Hampden Probate and Family Court before 10:00 a.m. on the return day of 03/03/2021.**

This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance if you object to this proceeding.

WITNESS, Hon. **Barbara M Hyland**, First Justice of this Court.

Date: February 03, 2021

Rosemary A Saccomani
Register of Probate
02/19/2021

Holyoke License Board of Commissioners Notice of Public Hearing

Notice is HEREBY GIVEN, under Chapter 138 of the General Laws, that The Holyoke License Board of Commissioners will be holding a Public Hearing on **Wednesday, March 3, 2021 at 5:30 P.M.** at the City Hall License Board, Basement Meeting Room, 536 Dwight St, Holyoke, MA.

The hearing is with regard to the application for a Transfer of an Annual Wine,

Malt & Cordials/Liqueurs Alcohol License from Carl's Pizza, Inc, from 548 South Street to Emily Ortiz and Militza Carattine DBA Bugalu Ballroom, 120 High Street., Holyoke pursuant to Massachusetts General Laws.

Jose Correa, Vice-Chair
02/19, 02/26/2021

COMMUNITY OUTREACH MEETING

Hybrid House LLC plans on building out a licensed cannabis establishment at 55 Jackson Street, located in Holyoke. The facility will be used for light manufacturing and wholesale distribution. Hybrid House LLC will be hosting a virtual Community Outreach Meeting at **5PM EST on Friday, March 5, 2021.** At this time, Hybrid House LLC will share details of the plan.

Hybrid House Community Outreach Meeting

Visit www.zoom.com
Click > Join a Meeting
Meeting ID: 949 1079 9492
Passcode: hybrid
02/19/2021

LEGAL NOTICE CITY OF HOLYOKE GAS & ELECTRIC DEPARTMENT LINE RECLOSERS AND CONTROLS

Sealed bids for furnishing the above will be received by Holyoke Gas & Electric Dept. until **2:00 p.m., March 9, 2021** at the Office of the Manager, 99 Suffolk St., Holyoke, MA 01040, at which time proposals will be publicly opened and read.

Additional information may be obtained from:

Chi Wong
Holyoke Gas & Electric Dept.
99 Suffolk St.
Holyoke, MA 01040
(413) 536-9308
cwong@hged.com

The right is hereby reserved to reject any or all proposals, or to accept any proposal that in the opinion of the Manager may be for the best interest of the City of Holyoke.

Please mark sealed envelopes **"Bid for Line Reclosers and Controls"** and address them to:

James M. Lavelle, Manager
Holyoke Gas & Electric Dept.
99 Suffolk St.
Holyoke, MA 01040
02/19/2021

CITY OF HOLYOKE LEGAL NOTICE

The Ordinance Committee of the Holyoke City Council will hold a joint public hearing with the Planning Board on **Tuesday, March 9, 2021 at 6:30 p.m.** to hear Zone Change applications from BH to BC to reduce restrictions and make it more possible for owners to build out on the full scope of their property at 401 Main St (028-07-001), 405 Main St (028-07-002), 409 Main St (028-07-003),

415 Main St (028-07-004), (028-07-005), 427 Main St (028-07-006), 433 Main St (028-07-007), 435 Main St (028-07-008), 437 Main St (028-07-009), 447 Main St (028-07-010), 449 Main St (028-07-011), 78 Sargeant St (028-07-012)

Meeting will take place remotely and can be accessed via www.zoom.us Meeting ID: 883 3164 0477 Meeting Passcode: 916614 or by call in at 1 (929)205-6099 with same Meeting ID and Passcode. For information on these applications please contact City Council Admin. Asst. Jeffery Anderson-Burgos at anderson-burgosj@holyoke.org or by phone at (413) 322-5525

Ordinance Chair: Lisi
02/19, 02/26/2021

LEGAL NOTICE CITY OF HOLYOKE GAS & ELECTRIC DEPARTMENT PURCHASE OF PLASTIC NATURAL GAS PIPE

Sealed bids for furnishing

the above material will be received by Holyoke Gas & Electric Dept. until **2:00 p.m., March 8, 2021** at the Office of the Manager, 99 Suffolk St., Holyoke, MA 01040, at which time bids will be publicly opened and read.

Additional information may be obtained from:

Chi Wong
Holyoke Gas & Electric Dept.
99 Suffolk St.
Holyoke, MA 01040
(413) 536-9308
cwong@hged.com

The right is hereby reserved to reject any or all proposals, or to accept any proposal that in the opinion of the Manager may be for the best interest of the City of Holyoke.

Bids shall be submitted in a sealed envelope addressed **"Bid for Purchase of Plastic Natural Gas Pipe"** to:

James M. Lavelle, Manager
Holyoke Gas & Electric Dept.
99 Suffolk St.
Holyoke, MA 01040
02/19/2021

The Sun OBITUARY POLICY

Turley Publications offers two types of obituaries.

One is a free, brief **Death Notice** listing the name of deceased, date of death and funeral date and place.

The other is a **Paid Obituary**, costing \$120, which allows families to publish extended death notice information of their own choice and may include a photograph.

Death Notices & Paid Obituaries should be submitted through a funeral home to: obits@turley.com.

Exceptions will be made only when the family provides a death certificate and must be pre-paid.

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2

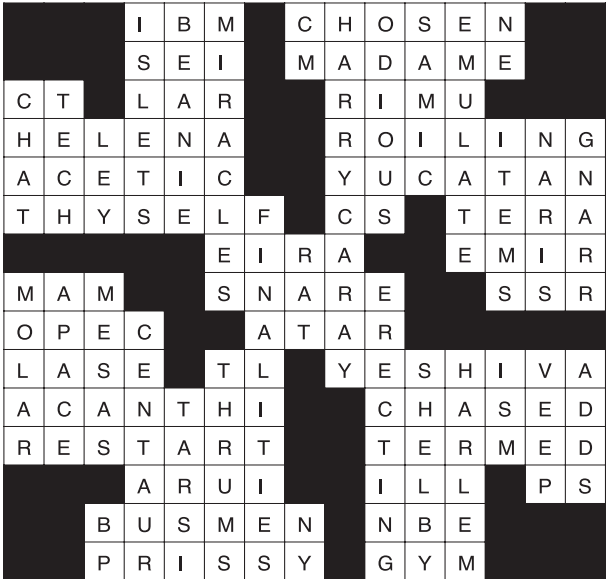
Access archives and digital tear sheets by newspaper title.

3

Find a quick link to the state of Massachusetts' public notice web site to search all notices in Massachusetts newspapers.

Public notice deadlines are Mondays at noon, Fridays noon for Monday holidays.

[visit www.publicnotices.turley.com](http://www.publicnotices.turley.com)



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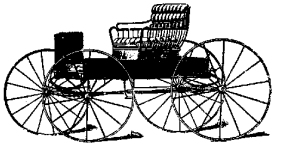
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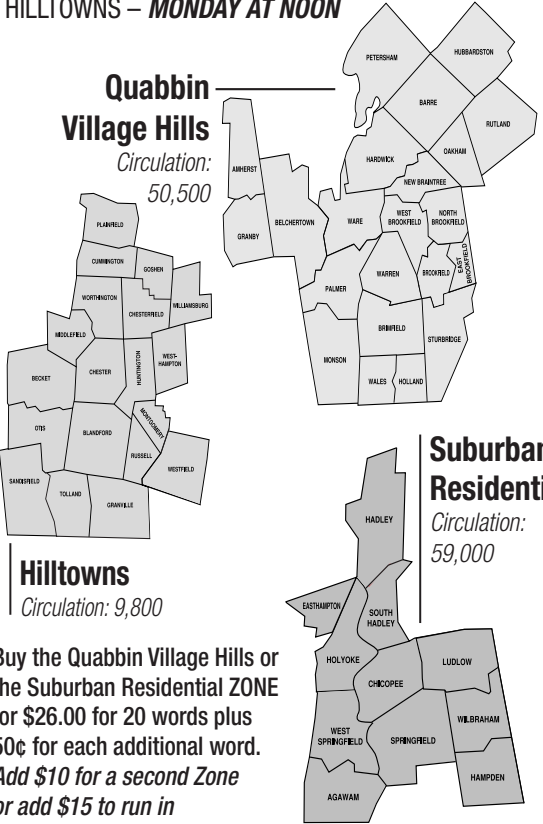
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27	Base Price \$29.50	28	Base Price \$30.00
29	Base Price \$30.50	30	Base Price \$31.00
31	Base Price \$31.50	32	Base Price \$32.00
33	Base Price \$32.50	34	Base Price \$33.00
35	Base Price \$33.50	36	Base Price \$34.00
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Looking for a PCA for a Paralyzed Male. Hours 7am-11am Saturday/Sunday duties: transfer from bed to wheelchair, sometimes use hoist lift, personal care, meal prep. Additional pay for morning shift. 4pm-6pm or 5pm-7pm Saturday/Sunday duties: laundry and shopping. Call Mary (413)244-5520

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VELIS, from page 1

line in defense of our great country. In turn, we need to do everything we can to make sure we are properly assisting and caring for those who serve and have served." said Senator Velis, who is a Veteran and Major in the U.S. Army Reserves himself. "Our Veterans have their own unique needs and skillsets, and I am incredibly excited to chair the committee directly tasked with all aspects of Veteran affairs."

Senator Velis will chair the Joint Committee alongside State Representative Paul McMurtry (D-Dedham). Senator Velis noted that he has filed several pieces of Veteran Affairs legislation on his own already and that he hopes to see several major Veterans Bills be signed by Governor Baker this session.

In addition to his chairmanship, Senator Velis was also named Vice-Chair of the Joint Committee on Mental Health, Substance Use and Recovery,

and Vice-Chair of the Joint Committee on Children, Families and Persons with Disabilities.

"Both of these committees will be working on issues very near and dear to my heart," said Senator Velis. "As someone who went through the special education system in Westfield, and as someone who has had their own struggles in recovery, I look forward to lending my personal insight to these committees as we work on legislation that will benefit residents across the Commonwealth."

Senator Velis will also be sitting on five other joint committees in the 2021-2022 legislative session, including the Joint Committee on the Judiciary, the Joint Committee on Municipalities and Regional Government, the Joint Committee on Public Safety and Homeland Security, the Joint Committee on State Administration and Regulatory Oversight, and the Joint Committee on Tourism, Arts and Cultural Development.

MUSEUM, from page 1

by Executive Director Susan Kelley, President of the Children's Museum Board of Directors Pamela Brough as well as members of the Children's Museum's Board of Directors.

The Children's Museum at Holyoke provides participatory exhibits and educational programs that invite the interaction of children and adults to promote enjoyable learning and self-discovery in the arts, sciences and the world around them.

RE-ELECTION, from page 1

the newly renovated Lyman Terrace, the Holyoke Catholic restoration, the Canal Walk, the passenger rail station, and millions invested in new infrastructure and parks. Lebrón-Martinez said that there is a lot to be proud of in Ward one, though there is more work to do.

"I look forward to seeing new voices and new people step up to serve our community in the coming months," Lebrón-Martinez said. "I will continue to be an active member of our city and intend to stay connected to the many people I have met along the way."

Lebrón-Martinez thanked Mayor

Alex Morse, colleagues on the Holyoke City Council, city staff, and her constituents for their support since being elected in 2011. She mentioned that her announcement of not running for the council is accompanied by her entering a new position that will require more of her attention in the coming months.

Lebrón-Martinez is the second council member to official declare her intentions for the 2021 election. Councilor-at-large Rebecca Lisi has announced her intention to run for mayor last month. These announcements mean there will be at least two new councilors coming out of the 2021 election. There are 13 members on the city council, seven ward councilors and six at-large councilors.

SCAMS, from page 1

and residents shouldn't release any personal information.

Gonsalves further explained that the vaccines are free and they will never ask for personal information or payment. In a recently release statement by the BOH on the town website; it states the vaccine is free, and if you are contact by the BOH or COA about the COVID-19 vaccine they will only ask for your name, date of birth, address, medical history, and insurance information. The city departments won't need your credit

or bank account information or social security information.

"We just sent out the message as a preventative measure," Gonsalves said. "We sent it out cause we don't want people to be taken advantage of. We don't want people to think we're trying to take their money."

If residents have concerns about the legitimacy of a call, the BOH asks that residents hang up the call and directly call the BOH at 413-322-5595 or call the COA at 413-322-5625. For more information on vaccines and updates on the virus residents can visit the town website and click of the coronavirus hub.



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Where your Neighbors are your Friends.

LENTEN, from page 1

“Change is energizing,” said parishioner Marilyn Gass, who has participated in Lenten Lunches since its inception in 1970.

On Feb. 19, residents can purchase lobster salad in the All Saints’ parking lot between 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. or 4:30 p.m. and 5:30 p.m. The motto for this year’s one-day campaign is, “Do it yourself with lobster salad.”

Lobster salad will be made available in closed containers after being prepared by parishioner Laura Marsh.

Upon retrieving the meal, community members are encouraged to, “take it home, provide your own fresh roll or a lettuce-lined salad bowl and serve up our classic New England lobster,” said Gass.

For many reasons, Gass anticipates that today will be memorable for all involved.

“We don’t want to lose our focus in the community by not doing anything so we came up with this idea that we would do a one-shot item that could be picked up outside,” said Gass. “I think it’s hard for all of us to not be able to see people in the community. I think that’s what’s really motivated people to at least try this.”

In past years, the Lenten Lunches program has drawn lines that have extended outside of the church’s doors. Organizers are hoping to catch a sliver of that magic next Friday.

Gass noted the contributions of the late parishioner Barbara Aubrey, who established Lenten Lunches at All Saints’ in 1970 and continued to serve as event organizer for several decades after.

The lobster salad that will be sold to community members on Feb. 19 is a byproduct of the same original recipes once used by Aubrey and her peers. In fact, the initiative will feature the All Saints’ Church and Friends Cook Book, which includes other original recipes, particularly those behind the initiative’s much heralded-soups.

All Saints’ is considering hosting another outdoor initiative later in the spring when more residents are vaccinated. The future remains uncertain, but Gass is hopeful that Lenten Lunches will prevail for years to come.

The program has overcome challenges before. Organizers have 50 years of experience to lean on as they prepare for what lies ahead.

“There are a lot of changes that you just can’t predict,” said Gass. “I think that even though many people through the 50-plus years were also working, we were able to always accommodate individual. You just don’t know how [the pandemic] will affect lots of people. We’re really doing the very best we can. Our hope is that there will be many years to come.”

More information regarding All Saints’ Lenten Lunches program can be found at allsaintsallwelcome.org.



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◆ Donovan's Irish Pub

Eastfield Mall, 1655 Boston Road, Springfield, MA

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www.donovanspub.com

CURRENT HOURS: Thurs-Sat 11am-9pm;

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